

House Bill (HB) 195

Rep. Mary González



Emergency Preparedness for Students with Disabilities

HB 195 would require a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan to address any necessary accommodations that the student will need during a disaster or emergency situation. It would also require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish guidelines for school districts to ensure the safety of students and district personnel with disabilities during a disaster or emergency situation.



While school districts are currently required to consider the needs of individuals with disabilities in their emergency operation plans, those plans may not include individualized accommodations matching a student's particular disability.



HB 195 would require TEA to consult with advocacy groups representing individuals with disabilities when establishing guidelines for school districts' multihazard emergency operations plans, in keeping with the core disability mantra of "Nothing about us without us."



Supporters of the legislation include the Arc of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, and Texas Parent to Parent.

"We need these plans in place so that the teachers and the [paraprofessionals] responsible for these students can know the unique individual needs of those students, can practice the emergency procedures specific to that student, and can assist the first responder community."

Public comment to the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety, March 2023

